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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS ON ROGER NORIEGA OP-ED, SEPTEMBER 3, 2003

1. Op-ed by Mario Rietti in San Pedro Sula-based liberal daily "Tiempo" (owned by former and future Liberal Party presidential candidate Jaime Rosenthal) on 9/1 and 9/2 entitled "Stronger Partnerships." "Honduras is and has always been the best partner of the U.S. in the Western Hemisphere, and we as Hondurans share the common values of freedom and democracy that have stimulated sustainable development in the great Northern country."

"During his campaign for the presidency, Ricardo Maduro outlined seven key points of his governmental plan to promote sustainable development in Honduras. Unfortunately, once elected, Maduro has forgotten some of the promises he made to foster development in Honduras, such as environmental sustainability, equitable economic growth, sustainable human development and other policies to promote equal opportunities for everyone, good governance, economic freedom, and investment in people."

"To create and maintain a sustainable means of living, eradicate poverty and strengthen local communities, we must promote civic participation in sustainable development, creating open, accessible and effective mechanisms to build a democracy with equal opportunities for all."

"Now, as Roger Noriega and others like our Cardinal Oscar Andres Rodriguez say, Honduras needs to transform its strategies and economic and political institutions, building stronger and sustainable partnerships with the U.S., Europe, Japan and other allies like the Republic of China. Only then will we achieve long-term sustainable human development that will permit us to generate economic growth through free trade and adequate fiscal policies with good governance, transparency and accountability."

"We all, liberals and nationalists, share the same ideals of participative democracy and economic and political freedom that must always go together to build sustainable partnerships that can let us negotiate with the International Monetary Fund and combat poverty, which is still our main foe in regard to human rights in a poor and severely indebted country such as Honduras."

Palmer